Geum rossii (R. Br.) Ser. var. ***depressum*** (Greene) C.L. Hitchc.
Ross' avens
Rosaceae (Rose Family)

Status: State Endangered
Rank: G5T1S1

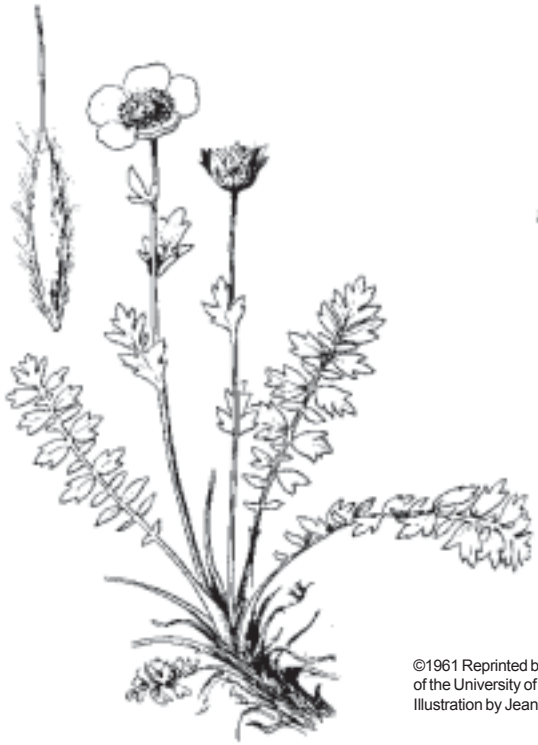
General Description: Adapted from Hitchcock et al. (1961): A perennial herb with thick scaly rootstocks that forms dense clumps up to 12 in. (30 cm) broad. There are numerous basal leaves that persistent after withering, have oblong blades, which are 1 1/8 to 4¾ in. (3 to 12 cm) long, are interruptedly pinnate or pinnatifid with 9 to 31 main segments, and from nearly hairless and greenish to silvery hairy and sparingly glandular-pubescent. The lower basal leaflets are entire and linear or elliptic. The upper basal leaflets are entire to 3-to-7-toothed to -cleft, There are several alternate and much reduced cauline leaves. The flowering stems are simple, 2 to 11¾ in. (5 to 30 cm) tall, sparsely pubescent to possessing long, soft hairs. There are 1 to 4 flowers. The calyx is often purplish-tinged, from nearly hairless to covered with rough and stiff hairs, with a shallowly funnelform hypanthium that is 1/8 to ¼ in. (3 to 5 mm) long, equaled or exceeded by the bracteoles, and with sepals that are ¼ in. (6 to 10 mm) long. The petals are spreading, yellow, obovate, sometimes have a notch in the apex, and are ¼ to 2/3 in. (6-12 mm) long. There are 50 to 70 stamens that are inserted just below the petals near the tip of the hypanthium. There are few to many pistils on a short columnar receptacle. The mature achenes are 1/8 in. (2.5 -4 mm) long, hairy, with persistent straight, hairless styles which are about as long as the achene.

Identification Tips: There are three varieties of *Geum rossii* in the Pacific Northwest, but only var. *depressum* is found in the East Cascades. Other species of *Geum* have leaves with terminal leaflets larger than the lower leaflets, while *Geum rossii* has pinnatifid leaves that do not have a larger terminal leaflet. Some *Potentilla* species are also similar and common; however, the basal leaflets in *Potentilla* are generally fewer than 15 and are more than 3 to 7 toothed.

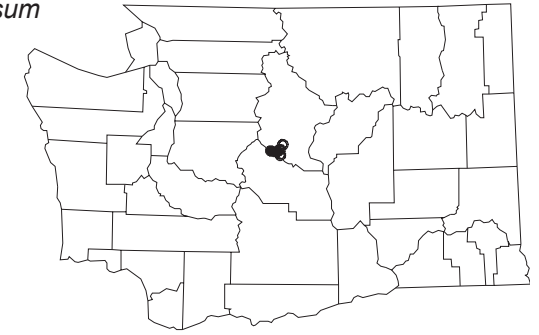
Phenology: In Washington it has been found from May to August.

Range: This locally endemic taxon is found in the Wenatchee Mountains of Chelan and Kittitas counties, Washington.

Geum rossii var. ***depressum***
Ross' avens



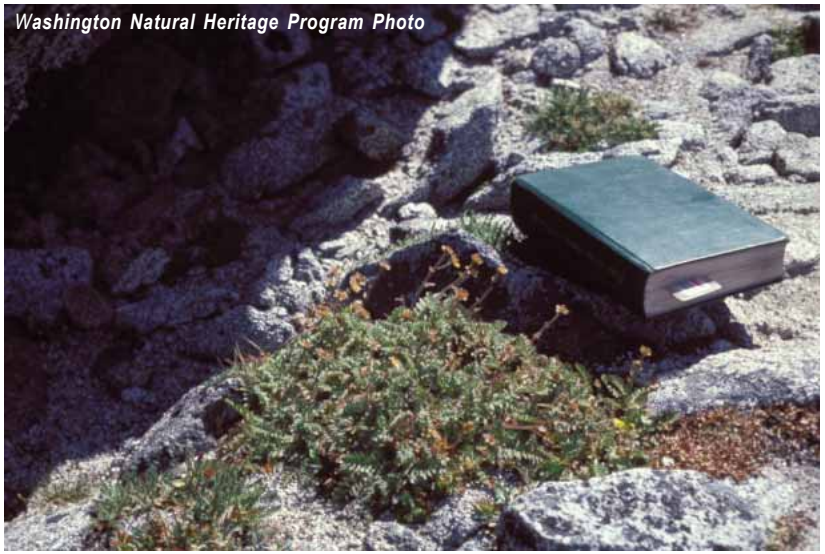
Known distribution of
Geum rossii var. *depressum*
in Washington



● Current (1980+)
○ Historic (older than 1980)

Geum rossii var. ***depressum***
Ross' avens


Photo by John Gamon


Washington Natural Heritage Program Photo

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Habitat: *G. rossii* var. *depressum* is typically found in very rocky areas, including talus slopes and rock crevices. Common associates include roundleaf alumroot (*Heuchera cylindrica*), Shasta fern (*Polystichum lemmonii*), sandwort (*Arenaria* sp.), bluegrass (*Poa* sp.), and sedge (*Carex* sp.). In Washington, this taxon has been seen from 6700 to 8400 ft (2042 to 2575 m) elevation.

Ecology: This taxon prefers rocky protected areas and can sometimes be found in moist, shady places at high elevations.

State Status Comments: The taxon is known from three historical occurrences and two recent sightings in the Wenatchee National Forest in Chelan County.

Inventory Needs: Rocky areas in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area should be systematically surveyed for additional populations. Previously identified populations should be revisited.

Threats and Management Concerns: Some individuals may be threatened by trampling.

References:

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, J.W. Thompson. 1961. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest* Part 3: *Saxifragaceae to Ericaceae.* University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA. 614 pp.

Smith-Kuebel, C, and T. Lillybridge. Sensitive Plants and Noxious Weeds of the Wenatchee National Forest. United States Department of Agriculture: Forest Service, Washington.

Washington Natural Heritage Program. 1981. *An Illustrated Guide to the Endangered, Threatened, and Sensitive Vascular Plants of Washington.* Washington Natural Heritage Program, Olympia, WA. 328 pp.

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